

FOREIGN SECRETARY MUELLER TO SIGN TREATY FOR GERMANY; CEREMONY NOT LIKELY TO BE CONCLUDED BEFORE SATURDAY; FRENCH INSISTENCE ON FORMALITY MAY DETAIN PRESIDENT

\$275,000 IN JEWELS AT BILTMORE VANISH FROM DEPOSIT BOX

Widow Says She Put Gems Away in May When Husband Died.

AFFAIR KEPT SECRET

Some One Else Had Access to Cache Mrs. Millhiser Used, Is Hint.

NO CLEWS DISCOVERED

Hotel Does Not Concede There Was Robbery in Formal Statement of Loss.

On the day of her husband's death, May 20, Mrs. Clarence Millhiser placed in a safety deposit box in the office of the Biltmore Hotel two packages which she had every reason to believe contained jewels valued at about \$275,000. Twenty-four days later, on June 13, she called for the box, opened it and compared its contents with a list that she had kept. She immediately notified the hotel management that \$275,000 worth of jewels was missing, including one of the finest pearl necklaces in America.

During the eleven days since June 13 the Biltmore has been full of police and private detectives. "Confidential" alarms have been sounded far and wide. Employees of the hotel have been questioned by the score. Pawnshops and suspected fences have been searched. The Pinkertons have vied with the Norman J. Fitzsimmons detective agency and the ablest men of the Police Department in trying to fathom the mystery. Lloyd's, through whom the jewels apparently were insured, also have had agents scurrying around. Mrs. Millhiser has retained the law firm of Stanchfield & Levy, and conferences have been held with Edwards, Murphy & Minton, attorneys for the Biltmore. In short, there has been a stirring around compatible with the dimensions and circumstances of the biggest jewel robbery reported in New York for many a year.

Results Thus Far—Nothing.

The results thus far have been—nothing. Secrecy enjoined by Mrs. Millhiser was preserved on all sides until yesterday. Then there was a "leak" somewhere. When the fact of the robbery was a public possession, the Biltmore's lawyers issued a statement of two sentences:

"On May 20 Mrs. Clarence Millhiser of Richmond, Va., who with her late husband was a guest of the Biltmore, procured from the hotel one of the safe deposit boxes maintained for the convenience of guests desiring to store valuables. She alleges that she placed in this box on that date, the day of her husband's death, jewelry of considerable value, and that when she went to the box on June 13 to remove the jewelry a part of the same was missing."

Mrs. Millhiser, who before her marriage was Miss Regina Viola Greenwald of Philadelphia and who is the niece of Ellis Gimbel, a member of the firm of Gimbel Bros., is spending the summer with her two daughters on the New Jersey coast. They have taken the Potter cottage at Jerome avenue and Pleasant place, Elberon.

Mrs. Millhiser kept her own counsel yesterday. She said: "I can say nothing. My lawyers are Stanchfield & Levy of 129 Broadway. Anything to be said will be given out by them." But the lawyers were just as reticent. So were Edwards, Murphy & Minton, except for the following quoted sentences.

John McKee, Bowman, president of the Biltmore, was unavailable. The Biltmore auditor, Mr. Miller, said nothing would be forthcoming except from the lawyers. The police, of course, were wrapped in their usual silence. They have an inventory of the jewels, but wouldn't admit it. He conceded that they had heard every word of the robbery, which was reported therein. Deacon Murphy of the law firm acting for the Biltmore, who as an assistant district attorney learned the art of criminal investigation, went to the hotel yesterday and did a little scouting of his own. He met there Mr. Cochran from the office of Edwards, Murphy & Minton. He said that Mrs. Millhiser was a manufacturer and capitalist and lived for years in Richmond, Va. He was president of the Richmond Cedar Works, which has mills all over the South, and of the Bedford Pulp and Paper Company and a director of the West Disinfecting Company. On their trips to New York for four years past the family had a suite at the Biltmore. They were well known at the hotel, as was the fact that Mrs. Millhiser had an enviable collection of jewels. Last year they moved to New York, taking a home at 270 Park avenue and Mr. Millhiser having an office at 50 East Forty-second street. His health failed and on May 10 he went to Mount Sinai Hospital. About the same time his wife and two daughters

HAMBY GUILTY; TO DIE IN CHAIR

Brooklyn Bank Robber Convicted of Murder in Record Time.

ACCEPTS FATE CALMLY

Prefers Death to Prison Term—Will Be Sentenced To-morrow.

"Gordon Fawcett Hamby," cultured heady, worse than Jesse James in the opinion of Justice Fawcett, was convicted of murder in the first degree by a jury in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, yesterday afternoon. He shot and killed De Witt C. Peal, paying teller, and Henry W. Coons, assistant treasurer of the East Brooklyn Savings Bank on December 13, 1918.

He knows that he will be sentenced to death in the electric chair to-morrow morning. Yet he walked in handcuffs back to the Raymond street jail as calmly and as tranquilly as if strolling for pleasure. And that with a mob of 500 crowding on his heels.

The case was conducted under remarkable circumstances and was despatched with a swiftness never approached in Brooklyn, and probably never in New York State. Unprecedented was the action of the blame young defendant in insisting that his lawyer, Frank X. McCaffry, abstain from cross-examining witnesses. He wished to be convicted. He wished to die.

He would rather be killed than live in jail for years at Tacoma, as he most certainly would if released here. He killed Robert Davis, a friend, at Tacoma, and was just about to be sentenced to life imprisonment there.

Schedule Shows Speed.

The celerity with which the case against him was completed yesterday is indicated by the following schedule:

10:30 A. M.—District Attorney Lewis opened his case to the jury and denounced the smiling prisoner.

10:35—First witness, Mrs. De Witt C. Peal, widow, took the stand against him.

11:30—Peter Bollinger, last of fifteen witnesses, took the stand.

1:05—Assistant District Attorney Conway finished reading Hamby's confession to the jurors.

1:15—District Attorney announces people rest.

1:16—Mr. McCaffry announces defense rests.

2:20—Court opens after recess. District Attorney sums up for the people.

2:50—Justice Fawcett charges the jury.

3:05—Jurors leave for jury room.

3:24—Jury finds Hamby guilty of murder in the first degree.

"I know I echo the sentiment of all decent minded people in Brooklyn," said Justice Fawcett to the jury, "in expressing to you sincere thanks for your verdict in this case. Any other determination would have been a miscarriage of justice."

"You have by your verdict convicted the worst man that has come before me in my thirteen years on the bench, during which time there have been more than 8,000 criminal convictions before me. The criminal record of Jesse James and all the other notorious bandits I can recall to mind pale into insignificance by comparison with that of this defendant."

Amid a breathless silence in the crowded court room Hamby walked to the rail and gave his pedigree to Clerk Kousney. He was smiling. He said in a low, clear tone that he was "Jay B. Hamby," 28 born in Alberta, Canada. He had "no definite residence—the world." Occupation? " Sailor—that'll do." He was single and had a "general education, a little bit of everything." Religion? "No part of the case. I may have received some religious instruction as a child. My parents are dead."

He was then handcuffed to Deputy Sheriff James Shortell and taken through Willoughby street to the Raymond street jail, about a third of a mile. Automobiles slowed down and cars slackened speed. Five hundred persons followed him to the jail doors. A thousand more peered from windows and doors.

At the office of Sheriff Griffin it was explained that it was thought best to take the desperate convict at once to the jail through the street rather than wait for the prison van to reach the court house. It was an unusual experience to Hamby and to Brooklynites in general.

Remarkable Career Nears End.

The conviction of Gordon Fawcett Hamby closes the career of a man generally conceded to be one of the most remarkable and singular criminals ever brought before a court. For eight years he has lived, care free, over the world, living a luxurious life on the toll ex-

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

HEAD OF STOCK FIRM IN CRASH GOT \$10 A WEEK

H. C. Loup, Taken Before District Attorney, Says He Was the Goat.

BLAMES ALL TO MANAGER

Attorney for Victims Declares Assets Only About \$10,000 in \$2,000,000 Failure.

Herbert C. Loup, head of the stock brokerage firm of H. C. Loup & Co., one of the three men sought after an investigation was started into the affairs and operations of that concern, telephoned to the District Attorney's office yesterday that he was at Broad Channel. Mr. Swann sent Detectives John Cuniff and Stanley Gorman for him and Loup was brought to the Criminal Courts Building, where he was questioned by the District Attorney, John T. Dooling of the commercial frauds bureau and Benjamin Spellman, attorney for several of the concern's clients who started the investigation when the company failed to turn over to them the profits they thought they had made.

"I was only the goat of the thing," Loup said. "I know very little about it."

"But weren't you the head of the firm?" asked Mr. Swann.

"Yes," replied Loup, "but Frank B. Taylor ran it. I was really only a clerk."

"What did you get out of it?"

"I was supposed to get from \$10 to \$150 a week," said Loup. "There was an arrangement by which I was to draw salary between those amounts, according to the business done. Most of the time I got nearer \$10 than \$150."

How the Firm Started.

Many of the questions put to Loup dealt with his connection with Taylor, office manager of the brokerage concern, who is still missing. He said he first met Taylor three years ago in Robins' restaurant in South Broad street, and that as far as he knew Taylor at that time was doing nothing beyond some advertising work in connection with the investment of securities. Loup was then employed as a clerk in a broker's office, but in the early part of 1918, he said, he and Joseph C. Kelsey, another clerk, and Harry Fitzpatrick, who later became rather widely known through his connection with Rangeburnett Oil stock, organized the firm of H. C. Loup & Co., the concern being to do a general promotion business.

"Some months later," said Loup, "Fitzpatrick got dissatisfied and he gave him \$500 for his interest in the business."

Soon thereafter Taylor was admitted into the firm, Loup said, although he put no money into it. But he soon had it on his feet finally through the sale of some Alaska stock. Loup declared that from the beginning of his connection with the concern Taylor assumed the position of directing head and knew most about the firm's operations.

Loup told the District Attorney that after the coming of Taylor he had little or nothing to do with the books, accounts or with the sale of stock.

"Taylor ran the place," he said.

Limited in Signing Checks.

Although Loup as head of the concern was empowered to sign checks on the earlier accounts, after a while, he said, he was permitted to sign checks only on Taylor's instructions, and those only for bills, office expenses and expenditures of the sort.

"Besides arranging for Kelsey and me to draw salaries ranging from \$10 to \$150 a week," said Loup, "we were supposed to share in the profits. But there Kelsey acted as salesman."

Loup said he had little knowledge of any of Taylor's transactions, but accepted Taylor's word for everything connected with the books of the company.

"I knew nothing about the firm's financial status," he said, "although I learned from bank check stubs once that he had a balance of \$25,000."

He said he had no idea what the present assets of the firm might be, although he thought the liabilities would easily amount to \$400,000.

Attorney Spellman declared, however, that his examination of the concern's books indicated liabilities of \$2,000,000, which was the figure originally estimated. He also produced checks showing that \$30,000 in varying amounts had been drawn from the bank in May by Taylor, and said he had not yet been able to learn what amount had been drawn in June. Taylor's signature on all the cancelled vouchers and checks was identified by Loup.

"What was Taylor's object in drawing these large sums?" Loup was asked.

"I don't know," he replied, "unless it was for some business purpose."

Knew Taylor Speculated.

Loup said he had been told by Taylor that some leases for Frontier Oil property in Texas were to be secured and that an agent in the Texas oil fields had been sent \$1,000 for that purpose. Loup also said he knew that Taylor had been speculating, his favorite stocks being Mariner, Pan-American and Mexican Petroleum. He told the District Attorney that some ten days ago he began to get an idea that Taylor was not doing everything just right. That was when Joseph Kaye, a mining opera-

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

Wilson Helps Belgium To Get First Indemnity

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PARIS, June 24.—President Wilson succeeded to-day in getting the Allies to sign an agreement by which Belgium will have priority in regard to the first indemnity payment by Germany of \$500,000,000 on account of reparations.

This takes the form of an inter-allied agreement signed by the five Powers and is highly satisfactory to Belgium, which has impatiently sought action only to be put off many times.

It is significant that President Wilson finally obtained this agreement from his colleagues immediately after his visit to Belgium, which impressed him deeply.

At the same session the plan to clear the Belgian war debt was approved. The plan is for the four great Powers to take over German bonds, which will be substituted for the Belgian debts. The bonds will be of a special issue, which Germany must make under the terms of peace, and will reimburse Belgium for funds she was forced to borrow following the German violation of her rights.

WEIMAR LACKS HEROIC TOUCH

By KARL H. von WIEGAND. Staff Correspondent of The Sun. Copyright, 1919; all rights reserved.

WEIMAR, June 22 (delayed).—The world war is over; the greatest tragedy of the ages was ended on this Sabbath day in the Grand Ducal Theatre and Opera House of historic Weimar when, sitting on the stage of the blue, white and gold theatre, the new German "signing Government," headed by the professional union labor secretary, Gustav Bauer, had a German pen placed in its hand with which to append Germany's signature to the Versailles document by the National Assembly.

The vote, which stood 237 for the acceptance of the terms of the Allies to 138 against it, five not voting, reflected the war weariness of exhausted Germany, the yearning for peace, the recognition of defeat and the unescapable and inevitable end.

Thirteen minutes later the Assembly, by a vote of 236 to 80, expressed its confidence in the Government which courageously had assumed the responsibility, courting certain unpopularity, of placing its name to the treaty. "The National Assembly is in agreement with the Government in signing the peace treaty." With these words the curtain was rung down on the world war as a spectacle.

Closing Scene Disappointing.

The closing stage in the last act of the titanic drama in many respects was disappointing, undramatic and even theatrical. After her remarkable fight and after her people had endured untold suffering, Germany submitted without heroics. There were grave faces and eyes that expressed suffering, but the majority of those present reflected little realization of what the occasion meant for Germany.

Six speakers, Bauer, Groeber, Hase, Schiffer, Posadowski and Kahl, representing the six parties in the Assembly, three for signing the treaty and three against, addressed the Assembly, but not a single great speech appropriate to the occasion was written into history, not a note touched the heartstrings or awakened the emotions of the Assembly or of the crowded galleries.

Instead some of the speakers devoted themselves to party politics. Scoring the other parties, "Our party" and "We told you so" were favorite themes. Bauer alone made an impression by the directness and simplicity of his speech. During the Premier's speech there was something like solemnity in the air and the session closed at 4:25 o'clock. Immediately afterward Herman Mueller, the new Foreign Minister, sent a telegram to Counsellor Haniel von Haimhausen at Versailles instructing him to apprise the Allies that Germany would sign the treaty.

I met former Ambassador Bernstorff on his way to the Assembly. "Going home Thursday," he remarked. "Have you heard the news that the German fleet has sunk itself? Too bad it could not have occurred prior to November 11."

Theatre Crowded to Roof.

This news spread quickly in the Assembly, but it seemed to cause no excitement and was not referred to in the proceedings. When President Fehrenbach a few minutes after noon rang the bell, calling the Assembly to order, the theatre was crowded to the roof. It was the first time that the populace had shown the slightest interest in the proceedings. There were many ladies in the boxes and throughout the galleries.

The new Cabinet sat at the Government desk on the stage to the right of the presiding officer and in the place of Scheidemann was the new Chancellor or Premier, a somewhat elongated edition of President Ebert. Scheidemann left Weimar this morning, not wishing to be present, and President Ebert and Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau also preferred to be

QUIT CITIES, URGES SOVIET.

By the Associated Press.

BUDAPEST, June 24.—The National Soviet, which has been in session for some time, has adjourned. Before adjournment the Soviet issued a call upon the cities to send their populations to the country, saying that otherwise they would starve.

The call declared that as the shops in cities were closed and no business was being carried on there was no reason for the people to remain.

The belief is prevalent here that the call was issued as propaganda for the purpose of getting the peasants interested in Communism.

Subtle Propaganda Seen in Hungarian Communist's Advice.

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CLOSING ACT AT WEIMAR LACKS HEROIC TOUCH

End of Titanic Drama Is Disappointing and Untheatrical.

ASSEMBLY IN A DAZE

Not One Great Speech Appropriate of Occasion Is Written Into History.

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Wilson Prepares to Sail on Saturday; Poincare's Dinner May Cause Delay

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PARIS, June 24.—President Wilson is making good progress cleaning up many details in the hope of sailing for the United States on Saturday.

The President may be prevented from embarking on the evening of the day that the treaty is signed by the great dinner at the Elysee Palace, which will be given by President Poincare, probably on Friday night, to all the plenipotentiaries. This is the traditional custom, following the signing of a peace treaty, and the acceptance by President Wilson of an invitation to attend it is obligatory, unless he is willing to affront the French very seriously.

The Germans probably will not be invited to this ceremony. For the first time in history the enemy will not be asked to participate because many of the French object to sitting at the same board with the men who burned their flags.

Wilson Has Two Ways Open to Halt War Time Prohibition.

EXPECT SWIFT ACTION

Short Dry Period After July 1 Is Worst Feared by Friends.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, June 24.—With war time prohibition under the food stimulation act of November 21, 1918, scheduled to go into effect within a week interest here and throughout the country centres in whether the President intends to suspend operation of the law. Investigation here shows that the President probably will act as soon as he has the legal authority to do so, and that prohibition ushered in by the food bill is not going to remain in force long, even if the President does not feel warranted to prevent its making the country bone dry on July 1.

There are two courses of action open to the President, according to authoritative information here, and the chances are all in favor of his adopting one or the other. The first is for the President to intervene before next Wednesday and irrespective of Congress declare that the need for war time prohibition under the food bill is passed. The other is for the President to await reports from the legal advisers that demobilization of the American troops has been completed in the sense of the statute and then put the food stimulation bill with its war time prohibition hors du combat.

Short Dry Period Expected.

The opinion of officials in the President's confidence is that the latter course is perhaps more likely than the former, though they will not be surprised to see war time prohibition ripped before it starts. Under the latter contingency the nation would have a few weeks of the bone dry experiment followed by the lifting of the ban until next January, when nationwide prohibition goes into effect under the amendment to the national Constitution.

There is no doubt whatever that the President believes that the necessity of the war time prohibition under the food bill has passed. In his message to Congress he said:

The demobilization of the military forces of the country has progressed to such a point that it seems to be entirely safe now to remove the ban on the sale of wines and beers, but I am advised that without further legislation I have not the legal authority to remove the present restrictions.

His authority centres in the question of whether demobilization has been accomplished